

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN AF-18

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:RKSHERWOOD:BA
APPROVED BY AF/W-ROBERT K. SHERWOOD
AF/P-JLINEHAN (DRAFT)
AF/N-JMONTVILLE (INFO)
AF/C-JHALL (INFO)

----- 130674

R 282151Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

UNCLAS STATE 062636

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, XY

SUBJ: DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS OF DESERT BALL BENEFIT
REF: SHERWOOD LETTERS 10/5/73 AND 11/30/73 TO AMBASSADORS/
CHARGES

1. ON MARCH 28 CHAIRMAN ANN WILLOUGHBY OF THE SOS DESERT BALL PASSED OUT CHECKS FOR DOLS 8,000 EACH TO SAHEL EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES - THE AMBASSADORS OF UPPER VOLTA, MALI AND MAURITANIA, CHARGE FROM SENEGAL, AND THE AMBASSADOR'S DAUGHTER IN THE CASE OF NIGER. (THE RECENT CHADIAN AMBASSADOR WAS GIVEN HIS GOVERNMENT'S CHECK SOME WEEKS AGO AT A FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR HIM.) PICTURES WERE TAKEN, AND REMARKS BY MRS. WILLOUGHBY AND UPPER VOLTAN AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU WERE RECORDED FOR VOA AND WIRELESS FILE USE. YOU WILL RECALL THE BALL WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 30 TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF THE DROUGHT UNDER THE HONORARY CHAIRWOMANSHIP AND IN THE PRESENCE OF MRS. NIXON.

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2. THE BALL RAISED MORE THAN DOLS 48,000 SO THERE REMAINS A SMALL AMOUNT TO BE DIVIDED EVENLY AMONG THE SIX EMBASSIES WHEN A FINAL ACCOUNTING IS MADE.

3. THE CHECKS WERE MADE OUT IN FRENCH LANGUAGE TO THE MINISTRIES (NOT MINISTERS) WHICH THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTOOD WERE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT'S HIERARCHY FOR AMERGENCY FEEDING; CHAD, PUBLIC WORKS; MAURITANIA, PUBLIC HEALTH; SENEGAL, RURAL DEVELOPMENT; MALI, DEFENSE; NIGER, RURAL ECONOMY; AND UPPER VOLTA, PLAN.

4. THESE FUNDS WERE RAISED THROUGH THE BALL AND THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH WERE TAX-EXEMPT. THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS WAS OBTAINED BY THE USE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE (AAI) AS SPONSOR OF THE BALL, AND IT INCUMBENT ON THE AAI TO KNOW WHAT DISPOSITION IS MADE OF THE FUNDS. THE ADDRESSEES ARE THEREFORE ASKED TO ASCERTAIN IN DUE COURSE IN WHAT MANNER THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF THE DROUGHT WILL BE AIDED BY THE BALL'S PROCEEDS. RUSH

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